

Minutes of August 15, 2017 Columbia County Rider Transportation Advisory Committee (CCRTAC)

In attendance:

Sharon Evinger - Chair
Genell Grow – Past Chair
Bill Eagle – Vice Chair
Claudia Eagle
Blanche Katz
Max Burns – Columbia City Resident
Greg Garner – Resident
Ralph Culpepper – Resident
Alta Lynch - Resident
Michael Ray – CC Rider Staff
Chad Mace – CC Rider Staff
Danny Hernandez – MTR Ops Mgr
Michael McClendon - Driver

Meeting Commenced at 6:30 PM.

ITEM 1: Welcome and Introductions.

Sharon opened the meeting and Began introductions. She welcomed everyone.

Greg Garner is a new resident of 3 years. He believes in the value of public transit

Max Burns Takes the bus to Portland daily. Lives in Columbia City.

ITEM 2: Bill Eagle motioned for the July 18 minutes to be approved. Sharron moved and Genell seconded. Passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: Michael gave a brief update on the Seniors and Vets on Transit. The promotion is looking very popular among seniors especially. Michael mentioned that the winner will be announced end of August for the free bus pass.

ITEM 4: Michael delivered an ad to the Scappoose 7 Theatre. The ad runs before the movies begin. Mention of the St Helens Theatre and whether an ad was placed there. Michael indicated he had reached out to the Columbia Theatre, but hadn't heard back. A direct contact was given and Michael would reach out again.

ITEM 5: Michael discussed the Open House results. Turnout was good for St Helens and Scappoose. Our two guests came as a result of them. There was some good feedback provided. Michael stated that he would begin compiling the results when he returned from his vacation. The results would be shared with the TAC and there would be proposed changes as a result. All this will come before the TAC before going before the Board of County Commissioners and a public hearing.

ITEM 6: The Education Subcommittee reported that they will meet on September 13.

It was suggested that schedules be distributed to the Kelso Amtrak Station and other places in the service area served by CC Rider. Michael indicated that there are schedules at many places, but that he would follow up and ensure that schedules are available at locals served by transit.

Misc.: Sharron suggested that Dawn attend some of the meetings as dispatch is integral to the education outreach.

Blanche would like to investigate having a bus stop at Avamere. There was a great deal of discussion concerning the value of such a request. Line 3 can easily be flexed to serve Avamere. Blanche was interested in having a bus dedicated to serving

Avamere and other senior centers to take them to various locations and back. There was concern that this would duplicate what Dial-A-Ride already provides, or that this would amount to a charter service, which is not allowed by federal regulations concerning public transit. There is certain to be continued discussion about how better to serve Columbia County seniors with transit.

Schedules at Avamere should be readily made available.

Item 7: Michael informed the TAC that he would be sending out information concerning two plans that he is bringing before the Board of Commissioners. The first plan is the County's Coordinated Transit – Human Services Plan. The second plan is the NW Connector Management Plan. Michael requested that committee members review the plans and bring questions/comments to the TAC meeting on September 19, so that he can present to the Board the following Wednesday (Sept 20).

Misc: There was much discussion concerning the proposed run cuts. Michael stated that the cuts will not need to be anywhere near as deep as originally thought as the budget is not as deep into the red as anticipated early on. Michael will be making proposals through September to take to the board. All proposals will come before the TAC prior to going to the board. One comment was that the cuts original proposed for Line 1 was too large for the middle of the day. The gap would greatly inconvenience riders. Michael agreed and because of the reduced deficit, will be re-examining the cut proposals.

Motion to Adjourn was made at 7:35, moved and seconded.